

appropriate for the United States to resume a world leadership position. That is exactly what we should do.

Therefore, with great respect, I hope this amendment would be turned back.

Mr. TANCREDI. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to rise in strong support of the Tancredo amendment which would strike an ill-advised provision of the foreign relations authorization bill.

It is regrettable that the authorization bill provides for the United States to rejoin UNESCO and set aside funds for that purpose from a strained international organization's budget. Whatever funding we give to UNESCO would have to come from other U.N. agencies such as the World Health Organization or the Food and Agriculture Organization. Furthermore, UNESCO continues to be plagued with poor management practices.

The world has struggled on without American membership in UNESCO since 1984 without any noticeable effect. We do, however, participate on a voluntary basis in several UNESCO projects that directly benefit American institutions. If we were now to rejoin UNESCO, we would be putting ourselves in a position of being forced to bear a large portion of a budget in an institution where we would be constantly outvoted.

This is just the sort of a situation that the recent fiasco surrounding our U.N. Human Rights Commission membership should warn us against being forced to bear costs all out of proportion to any influence we may have to bear.

Hopefully, if the administration will consider and report on the best way to change our relationship to UNESCO, it would be helpful. But I am simply not prepared at this time to accept the provision reported by our committee.

Accordingly, I urge support for the Tancredo amendment striking the UNESCO provision from the authorization bill.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, arguably the most respected Republican Secretary of State of recent decades is George Shultz. In 1984, Secretary Shultz recommended that we withdraw from the United Nations; and many of us, myself included, supported him because the UNESCO at that time was a corrupt anti-American organization. It has cleaned up its act. Our former Secretary of State, Republican George Shultz, and our former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Democrat, are recommending now that we rejoin UNESCO.

I find it almost ludicrous that we spent the previous hour debating the

United States being voted off a U.N. body. Here we have an opportunity of joining a U.N. body, the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It is waiting for us with open arms.

We are debating as to whether we should enter an organization which has over 180 members. The United States is conspicuous by its absence, and the lack of a United States voice on UNESCO is hurting our foreign policy and international interests.

I urge all of my colleagues to reject the amendment of the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI), to preserve the action taken in the Committee on International Relations, and usher in a new era of U.S. participation in UNESCO.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TANCREDI. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, section 104 would provide an enormous amount of money, \$130 million over 2 years. That is more than half a billion dollars over 10 years, \$60 million a year thereafter for the U.S. to become a part of UNESCO.

The amendment of the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) to strike this new commitment of funds is prudent, and I believe it deserves support of this body. It seems to me that, before we make this enormous financial commitment, should not we know the cost benefit of this open-ended commitment? How vital is UNESCO vis-a-vis other commitments that we might make otherwise?

We left, Mr. Chairman, in 1984, because of mismanagement, because of highly questionable policies especially in the realm of state control of the press.

I would point out to my colleagues no recent hearings have been held on rejoining. What is it that we are buying into? We need, it seems to me, a generous amount of due diligence before any decision is made on this.

I would just note parenthetically that, if we have a half a billion dollars over the next 10 years and it is in excess of that lying around, as chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have some very, very worthy projects in the area of health care that I would like to dedicate that money to before we start throwing money at UNESCO.

So I would hope that the amendment of the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) would get the support of this body.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, whatever any American may have thought about UNESCO when the U.S. withdrew in 1984, today UNESCO is a different body. It has adopted a culture of reform that is improving management and streamlining

personnel and putting the organization's finances in order. Today UNESCO is an efficient and effective advocate for free speech, for education and scientific collaboration worldwide. Membership in UNESCO would benefit every American.

As the gentleman friend from California (Mr. LANTOS) pointed out, even former Secretary Shultz, who presided over U.S. withdrawal, now has reversed his position, has indicated that the improvements call for reentry of U.S. into UNESCO.

Now, as a scientist and a policy maker, I believe that UNESCO would lead, of course, to cultural enrichment but even more. CIA director George Tenet recently testified that some of the greatest threats to the U.S. from abroad come from official corruption, endemic poverty, mass illiteracy, environmental disruption, and the spread of infectious diseases. UNESCO addresses these emerging threats by promoting good government, universal education, sustainable development, and disease control.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Tancredo amendment.

Mr. TANCREDI. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support for this amendment. If one takes a look across this country, and people talk about reducing the debt, they talk about money for education, health care, but yet they want to put \$1 billion into the United Nations. They want to spend \$67 million a year for UNESCO.

I mean, think about it. That money is going to take away from the World Health Fund. It is going to take away from the Children's Fund and things that are effective to a risky scheme like UNESCO that they say, quote, has changed. It has not.

The authors of this amendment have thought it through very, very carefully. It is no wonder that there was never a balanced budget on this House floor for 40 years or people wanted to dump money into welfare without reform when the average was 16 years on welfare. We owe it to the American people to be the guardians of their tax dollars and the effectiveness of those dollars.

Support the Tancredo amendment.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1¼ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in firm opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI).

When the United States withdrew from UNESCO in 1984, I believe we did so for the right reasons. Mismanagement and corruption characterized an organization best known for being a forum for American bashing.

Today UNESCO is not the same as it was in 1984. This organization is making important contributions in the